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 First Party Name : Adv SUNIL V. MOHAMMED
 First Party Address : NIXI, DELHI
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 Second Party Address : , NIXI, DELHI
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BEFORE THE NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE OF INDIA

Adv. SUNIL V. MOHAMMED BA., LL.B.
(Sole Arbitrator)

AWARD

Dated 12th December, 2025

Venue: New Delhi, India



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M.A. KUNJU BEEVI
High Court Vendor

In the matter of Arbitration under the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy; The INDRP Rules and Procedure and The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

INDRP CASE No. 2011

Between

Complainant:

Blackstone TM L.L.C.,
354 Park Avenue,
New York, NY 10154,
United States of America.

And

Respondent:

Blackstone Finserv,
Block No. 30, Madhav Residency,
Bh. Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank,
Rajkot, Gujarat-360005, India.

Disputed Domain Name : "BLACKSTONEPAY.IN"
Seat of Arbitration : Office of the NIXI at Delhi, India.
Date of commencement of Arbitration Proceeding : 14th July, 2025



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Adv. SUNIL V. MOHAMMED BA., LL.B.
(Sole Arbitrator)

I. The Parties to the Arbitration:

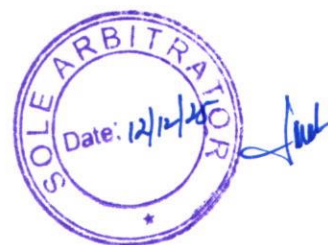
1.1 The Complainant in the Arbitration Proceedings is BLACKSTONE TM L.L.C., 354 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10154, United States of America. The Complainant's authorized representative in these proceedings is Sujata Chaudhri, Urfee Roomi, Deeksha Anand, Ajaya Kumar V., Janaki Arun, Jaskaran Singh, Anuja Chaudhury, Ritesh Kumar and Ayush Dixit of Sujata Chaudhri IP Attorneys, 4th Floor, Tower B Windsor IT Park, A-1, Sector 125, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 (Phone: +91 01206233100, Email: *trademarks@sc-ip.in; sujata@sc-ip.in; urfee@sc-ip.in*) as per **Annexure 1** Power of Attorney dated 22nd April, 2025.

1.2 The Respondent in the proceedings is BLACKSTONE FINSERV, Block No. 30, Madhav Residency, Bh. Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank, Rajkot, Gujarat-360005, India (E-mail: *UDRPdisputes@godaddy.com, abuse@godaddy.com;*), as per the details publically available in the WHOIS database (**Annexure 12**) maintained by the National Internet Exchange of India (hereinafter referred to as NIXI).

2. Applicable Law and Jurisdiction:

2.1 The present Dispute Resolution Process is in accordance with Policy No. 5 of the .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (hereinafter referred to as the **.IN Policy**) and .IN Domain Name Dispute Resolution Rules of Procedure (hereinafter referred to as the **INDRP Rules of Procedure**), based on the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 as amended from time to time, adopted by the NIXI and sets forth the legal framework for resolution of disputes between a Domain Name Registrant and a Complainant arising out of the registration and use of an .IN Domain Name.

2.2 By registering the disputed Domain Name with the NIXI accredited Registrar, the Respondent has agreed to the resolution of disputes under the policy and Rules framed there under (See Policy No. 15 and 16 of the .IN Policy and Rule 13 (a) INDRP Rules of Procedure).

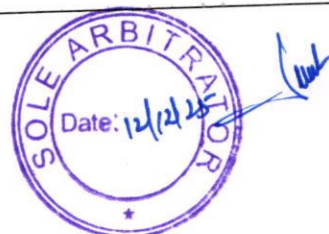


3. The Domain Name and Registrar:

3.1 The disputed Domain Name "**BLACKSTONEPAY.IN**" was registered on 18th February, 2024, with GoDaddy.com LLC, 14455 N. Hayden Rd.Ste.226 Scottsdale, AZ 85260, USA.

3.2 The particulars of the registration of the Domain Name as found in the .IN Registry database are as follows:

DNS Form	blackstonepay.in
User Form	blackstonepay.in
ROID	D6DB2B67C1025408B936140670C000453-IN
Registrar Name	GoDaddy.com, LLC
IANA ID	146
Create Date	2024-02-18T14:06:18Z
Expiry Date	2027-02-18T14:06:18Z
Last Updated Date	2025-05-22T12:34:38Z
EPP Status	clientRenewProhibited serverRenewProhibited clientTransferProhibited serverUpdateProhibited clientDeleteProhibited serverDeleteProhibited serverTransferProhibited clientUpdateProhibited
Domain Status	Registered
Assigned Nameservers	cns6002.hostgator.in cns6001.hostgator.in
Registrant Client ID	CR841381103
Registrant ROID	CA2C4AF7045EB459EB8E83CA9060154B3- IN
Registrant Create Date	2024-10-05T14:10:09Z
Email	blackstonefinserv@gmail.com
Phone	(91).9913939137
International Postal Name	Blackstone Finserv
International Postal Street Line 1	Block No. 30, Madhav Residency
International Postal Street Line 2	Bh Rajkot NagrikSahakari Bank
International Postal City	Rajkot
International Postal State	Gujarat
International Postal Postcode/ Zip Code	360005
International Postal Country	IN



4. Procedural History

4.1 The Sole Arbitrator, Adv. Sunil V. Mohammed was appointed on 14th July, 2025, in the above INDRP Case to resolve the domain dispute raised in the Complaint dated 2nd July, 2025, in accordance with Rule 2(a) and 4(a) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure.

4.2 After obtaining the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality of Independence of the Sole Arbitrator, the NIXI has forwarded the amended complaint along with **Annexures 1 to 14** and also the WHOIS details of the domain and the Authorisation of Agent.

4.3 Accordingly, on 16th July, 2025, the Tribunal issued Notice under Rule 5(c) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure to the Respondent through e-mail and the Complainant was directed to serve copies of the domain complaint along with complete set of documents in soft copies as well as in physical via courier or post to the Respondent Registrant at the address provided in the WHOIS details of the domain, in compliance of Rule 2 and 3(d) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure and to furnish proof of such service and delivery. In the said Notice, the Respondent was directed to file Reply to the domain complaint within 15 days.

4.4 The Complainant by email dated 17th July, 2025, informed the Tribunal about the compliance with Rule 2 and 3(d) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure with proof of service of the soft copies of the Complaint and Annexures to the known e-mail ID of the Respondent viz., *UDRPdisputes@godaddy.com*, *abuse@godaddy.com*. Thereafter, vide e-mail dated 22nd July, 2025 the Complainant has forwarded the Receipt dated 19th July, 2025 as proof of service of the Notice, Complaint and Annexures to the Respondent through courier.

4.5 After declaring the service of the domain complaint along with the Annexures and the Notice to the Respondent in compliance of Rule 3(d) and 2(d) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure and considering the fact that in accordance with Rule 13 of the INDRP Rules of Procedure sufficient time was granted after the notice period to submit response/reply to the domain complaint, the Respondent was set ex parte on 20th August, 2025, going by Rule 17 of the INDRP Rules of Procedure and the matter was adjourned for further proceedings in accordance with Rule 5(e) of the INDRP Rules of Procedure.



4.6 The Award in the matter ought to have been passed within 60 days from the date of handover. However, due to the aforementioned reasons, the said time limit could not be followed. That apart, further time was necessitated due to health issues of the Arbitrator and consequent bed rest.

5. Grounds urged for the Administrative Proceedings:

5.1 The disputed domain name is identically and/or confusingly similar to Complainant's domain name/trademark or service marks in which Complainant has rights.

5.2 The Registrant has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the domain name.

5.3 The Registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used in Bad faith.

6. Complainant's Contentions:

6.1 The Complainant *Blackstone TM L.L.C.* submits that it is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, having a place of business at New York. According to the Complainant, it was founded in the year 1985 by Peter G. Peterson and Stephen A. Schwarzman and it is the world's largest alternative asset manager, and provides a wide range of investment management, financial advisory and consultancy related services. It is further stated by the Complainant that today, it is a well renowned publicly traded investment firm, and as of 31st December, 2024, it has more than USD 1.1 trillion in assets under management (AUM), which include global investment strategies focused on real estate, private equity, infrastructure, life sciences, growth equity, credit, real assets, secondaries and hedge funds. To substantiate the said contentions, the Complainant relies on its **Annexure 2** Annual Report for the year 2024.

6.2 It is the case of the Complainant that it has offices in more than twentyseven cities across several countries, including India and as of 31st December, 2024 it has more than 4,800 employees at their headquarters in New York and around the world. The Complainant would assert that the name '**BLACKSTONE**' is synonymous with the highest quality of financial and investment services around



the globe. In support of the same, the Complainant relies on **Annexure 3** Extracts from its website and the Annual Report for the year ending in 2024.

6.3 The Complainant would content based on **Annexure 4** extracts from its website and websites of ranking firms that it has been the recipient of many coveted awards and recognitions including a combined eighteen awards from Private Equity International, Private Equity Real Estate, Real Estate Capital Europe and Private Debt Investor, the award for the Asset Manager of the Year 2024 (Retail Advisory AUM more than USD 100 billion) by Money Management Institute, a combined ten awards and accolades from Deal Catalyst, GlobaCapital, Creditflux and Debtwire for the year 2023 and the award for the Best Overall Fundraising Buyout by Private Equity Wire in 2023.

6.4 It is the specific case of the Complainant that as early as on 1990, the name 'BLACKSTONE' has formed part of its corporate name and it has also used, and continues to use the mark BLACKSTONE and marks that incorporate the BLACKSTONE mark, in relation to its services, including financial and financial advisory and consultancy services, and related goods and services, which is collectively referred to as the "**BLACKSTONE Name and Marks**". According to the Complainant, the said Name and Marks are not only inherently distinctive, but they have also achieved worldwide fame and repute, as a result of their extensive use and thus, these marks are immediately recognized as designating the Complainant and its services.

6.5 It is stated by the Complainant that it has an active website '**www.blackstone.com**' that is accessible to consumers around the world, including in India and the domain name was registered on **22nd September, 1994**. The Complainant would assert that consumers can access information about its services through this website and to prove the use of its 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks', the Complainant relies on **Annexure 5** extracts from the WHOIS records and screenshots from its website.

6.6 According to the Complainant, it has expanded its online presence through official social media pages and accounts on Facebook (around 40K followers), Instagram (around 189K followers), X (formerly Twitter-around 147.6K followers), and LinkedIn (around 1 M followers) wherein its 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks' feature prominently. To prove the said fact, the Complainant has produced **Annexure 6** screenshots of its social media pages.



6.7 Based on **Annexure 7** articles, the Complainant submits that by its ubiquitous use of the 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks', consumers have come to associate these marks solely and exclusively with the Complainant and its services.

6.8 The Complainant by virtue of **Annexure 8** Annual Report for the year 2024 and total assets under management would state that it had a total revenue of USD 8,517 million, USD 8,022 million and USD 13,229 million in the financial years ending 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively, and, in the year 2024, the total assets under management (AUM) in real estate were approximately, USD 974.7 billion, in private equity were approximately, USD 1040.2 billion, and in credit and insurance were approximately, USD 1,127.2 billion, a significant percentage of which is attributable to its services under 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks'.

6.9 As regarding the business in India, based on **Annexure 9** extracts from the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs showing particulars of the Complainant's Indian subsidiaries, it contents that it had significant ties with India for decades and used the 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks' in India since the year 1990 and further that, in order to strengthen its relationship with Indian consumers, incorporated subsidiary companies namely, *Blackstone Advisors India Private Limited* in 2005 and *Blackstone COE India Private Limited* in 2019. It also contended that the Complainant has also established a branch office in Mumbai and that during March 2025; it celebrated its 20th Anniversary of its direct trading in India, which was widely covered by Indian media outlets. In support of the same, the Complainant has produced **Annexure 10** extracts of the media articles covering its activities.

6.10 It is the case of the Complainant that the 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks' are the subject of numerous trademark registrations worldwide, including in India, the United States of America, Switzerland, Mexico, Malaysia, Brazil, New Zealand, the European Union, Australia, etc. The Complainant has produced **Annexure 11** copies of the Certificates of registration issued by the Trade Marks Registry showing its trademark registrations in India. It is also stated that its marks qualify as '**well known trade marks**', as envisaged by Section 2(1)(zg) and Section 11(6) of the Act as well as Article 6bis of the Paris Convention.

6.11 The Complainant through **Annexure 13** would indicate that the disputed domain name resolves to an active website '*www.blackstonepay.in.*' and it features



information regarding a digital payment and financial services app 'BLACKSTONEPAY', purportedly offered by one 'BLACKSTONE FINSERV' and further that the said website lists financial services and utilities management services that any user can avail from the 'BLACKSTONE PAY' app, such as bank transfers, bill payments, cash outs, mobile recharge etc. and notably, the said website has links to the Google Play Store and AppleApp Store to facilitate the download of the said 'BLACKSTONE PAY' App, however, the said links do not direct to any app purchase site, but direct users back to the same website '*www.blackstonepay.in.*'

6.12 It is the specific contention of the of the Complainant that it came to know about the disputed domain name after it was registered on 18th February, 2024, and immediately on 20th January, 2025, and 28th January, 2025, the Complainant reached out to the Registrant of the domain name through the 'Contact Us' from the website, and notified the Registrant of the Complainant's rights in the 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks', and demanded the immediate cessation of the disputed domain name.

6.13 According to the Complainant, despite that, as per **Annexure A14** search results for disputed domain name on the search engine Google leads to the Complainant's website, BLACKSTONE.COM, as well as other links displaying information about its services bearing the 'BLACKSTONE Name and Marks'.

6.14 The Complainant placing reliance on various decisions would assert that the very use of a domain name by someone with no connection with the Complainant suggests opportunistic bad faith.

6.15 Accordingly, the Complainant sought to transfer to it the Respondent's domain name under the .IN Policy as it is identical, deceptive and confusingly similar and used in bad faith, to protect its rights and legitimate business.

7. Respondent's Contentions:

7.1 Despite service of Notice dated 17th July, 2025 to the Respondent's e-mail *UDRPdisputes@godaddy.com*, *abuse@godaddy.com*.and even after the extended time period, the Respondent failed to submit a reply/response to the domain complaint. Accordingly, the Tribunal proceeded further in the matter by setting the Respondent set ex-parte.

